

Patent Application: Specification

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The truck bed 18 installed towing ball member 13 is installed utilizing a sturdy structural member 19 of the towing vehicle 1. This location is between the underside of the vehicle's bed floor 18 and the top of the vehicle's frame 16. This structural member 19 is firmly attached to the truck's frame 16 in a suitable fashion. A cylindrical sleeve 12, having an I.D. slightly larger (+/-0.008-0.011 inches) than the minor O.D. of the ball member 13, and also that of the plug 14. A threaded rod 15 extends from this sleeve 12 through the side rail/truck frame 16 to a handle 17 which, by turning, facilitates the locking and unlocking of the ball member 13 in the sleeve 12. This locking and unlocking is achieved when the threaded rod end 21 enters and retracts from the rod lock hole 22. Once the ball member 13 is removed, the floor plug 14 can be inserted and the bed of the towing vehicle 18 is free and clear to use for other purposes.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An easy to install and remove conversion system for "king pin designed fifth-wheel trailers" enabling such fifth-wheel trailers to be attached to a conventional ISO 3853/1103 50-59 mm steel ball which may be installed in and removed from the bed of a towing vehicle. This bed - installation of the conversion unit may include the installation of a platform for a removable ISO standard trailer ball. This ball system is removable from the surface of the truck bed when the E-Z gooseneck/fifth-wheel conversion unit is not in place. In this way the entire bed of the towing vehicle is free of obstructions and can be in service for alternate uses.
2. The E-Z gooseneck/fifth-wheel conversion unit utilizes no welding of parts to the trailer's fifth-wheel hitch.
3. The E-Z gooseneck/fifth-wheel conversion unit itself requires no bolting of parts such as clamps or other metal pieces to achieve attachment of the E-Z conversion unit to the trailer's fifth-wheel hitch. The E-Z unit uses an Allen wrench as the sole tool for attachment.
4. The E-Z gooseneck conversion unit is easily and inexpensively manufactured from ½ inch - cut plate steel welded to a schedule 80, nominal 4 inch steel pipe of approximately 11 inches in length with a tapered ring placed in the trailer king pin's groove, secured with tapered set screws.